

LIVING IN GERMANY GRADUALLY GROWS MORE OF PROBLEM

Middle Class Disappearing
Through Inability to Main-
tain Standards.

TYPICAL CASES SHOWN

Mark Only Half a Cent, but
Purchasing Power in
Germany Greater.

ALL FEELING THE PINCH

Teacher, Captain, Pastor,
Physician and Others Tell
Their Troubles.

By a Former Captain.

I was a regular Captain of the Infantry Guards in the war, and have a wife and two children to support. My father was a Major-General who fell at Chateau Thierry. Ours is an old noble family of Pomerania. I had to resign my post with the Reichswehr this year, when a great many officers were dismissed upon the demand of the Allies.

For two years more I am to get about two thousand marks a month from the Government. What will happen when those two years expire I don't know, but I have already set to work to prepare for that date. I am taking a course in Spanish, agriculture and accounting, and hope to be able to emigrate to the Argentine Republic in about a year. As for the passage expenses, I hope the mark will rise in value until then, so as to allow me to pay for the passage of my family out of some 60,000 marks I inherited in 1912. But what are 60,000 marks now? Then they were worth \$14,000, and now \$300! If necessary I shall ask my uncle, who lives in Argentina, to lend me the passage money and let me work the loan off later on.

I am devoting a few hours a day as local agent for a chocolate factory. I make about 50 to 70 marks a day. So my total revenue is about 3,500 marks (\$17.50) a month. We manage to live on that with the greatest economy, but it is hardly necessary to say that I cannot save a single mark. I am glad enough to manage to keep out of debt. I got the employment with the chocolate factory because a friend of mine reminded the owner that it was due to the efforts of the company under my command in 1919 that the Spachowitz were driven from his quarter of the town.

My family numbers six. I myself am in good health, but my wife suffers from tuberculosis as a result of years of undernourishment during the war. I continue to support all four children. The education of the two oldest sons is hindered by the war and the second was wounded in the arm and permanently lame. My youngest son showed steady temperature two years ago, and so received an invitation to visit a family in Denmark, where he passed six weeks.

In 1913 I had property worth 35,000 marks (over \$8,000), but now it has all been spent. I received a yearly salary then of 7,500 marks (\$1,770) and to-day of 32,000 marks (\$175). I paid in taxes then 5.2 per cent. of my income, or 380 marks (\$90), and now 10 per cent., or 3,200 marks (\$17.50). I kept a servant, who cost me in wages and insurance \$42 a month, but now, in view of the fact that a servant costs over 1,800, all the house-keeping is done by my wife and 18 year old daughter.

We were accustomed to having meat at least once a day, now we have it once a week, occasionally twice. We used to heat and light four rooms, now it is two, or at best three. I would like to see my family so long as a single man of my tastes would eat up in a day's visit to Berlin. We have a servant, who costs 600 marks in food and 200 in wages a month. My wife reported to me recently that it was not sound to pay out 20 per cent. of our income for a servant, and that she would do her own work hereafter. German houses, unlike those in the States, are not built to be managed without help. If my wife had all the work to do alone it would mean keeping in order eight rooms (American count), cooking for five persons and having entire care of three daughters, only one of them of school age. And as I go away from home for stays of several days it would involve her tending the furnace. I decided this sacrifice, and we decided instead to sell my collection of Persian art. I obtained 40,000 marks for it, or less (in gold) than what the collection had cost me years before when I acquired it during a long stay in Persia. I was living abroad during the war and lost my furniture, so some of the 40,000 marks went into a dining room set. The rest will furnish us with a maid for a while, and will be provided for Government support is to be lost.

Before the war (when I was still a bachelor) my income was 10,000 marks (\$2,360) a year. What I now earn buys me almost exactly one-third as much as I used to receive, and I have two adults more and three children to provide for. My wife and I succeed in keeping going only by the most unshakable scrutiny of every outlay.

Before the war I gave many lectures and received from 100 to 200

marks (\$25-\$50 per each appearance. To-day I am not paid much more than 200 marks. Forty per cent. is then deducted for taxation, and the balance, 120 marks, has a purchasing power of about \$2.

I was asked to recommend a director for a German school in South America. The salary, translated into marks, was about 200,000 a month, or thirty times what I am receiving. But living in South America obviously does not cost thirty times more than here. I am not inclined to take the post myself. It seems to me more of a privilege to stay in my home country and work with it to better times.

By a Former Captain.

By a Mail Carrier.

By a Pastor.

By a School Director.

By a Department Store Forewoman.

By a Physician.

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